

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 CU-04 DRC-01 OMB-01

/170 W

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R 101040Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7328

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI POUCH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW POUCH

USINT CAIRO POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 2428

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SU

SUBJ: KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY TO REOPEN

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SUDANESE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER HIGH EDUCATION INSTITUTES TO REOPEN. NIMEIRI SEEKS STUDENT UNDERSTANDING BUT RECEIVES SOME HECKLING. UNIVERSITY FACULTY TO BE PURGED. NIMEIRI USE QADDAFI AS EXAMPLE OF HIS BURDENS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MEETING: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI MET NOV. 9 WITH UNIVERSITY AND HIGHER INSTITUTE STUDENTS TO OUTLINE HIS VIEWS ON AUG.-SEPT. CIVIL DISTURBANCES WHICH RESULTED IN CLOSURE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER SCHOOLS. THERE WAS INITIAL DOUBT ON NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT WOULD ACTUALLY ATTEND (OTHER THAN SSU MEMBERS) AND WHETHER SITUATION WOULD BE COMPLETELY CONTROLLED. AS IT TURNED OUT, WE ARE STILL UNCERTAIN ABOUT ATTENDANCE, BUT SPEECH (WHICH WAS BROADCAST LIVE) WAS INTERRUPTED BY SUFFICIENT HECKLING BY ABOUT THIRTY REPORT-EDLY MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD STUDENTS ("KILLER, KILLER NIMEIRI") THAT RADIO OMDURMAN WENT OFF THE AIR FOR 10-15 MINUTES.

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FOLLOWING SPEECH, WHAT HAD BEEN BILLED AS "DIALOGUE" WITH

STUDENTS WAS NOT BROADCAST.

2. THE SPEECH: THE SPEECH REVIEWED SUDAN'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES IN OFT-STATED TERMS IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO IMPRESS THE STUDENTS THAT THE REGIME IS ACTIVELY STRIVING TO FOLLOW A "SUDAN FIRST" POLICY AND THAT OPPORTUNISTS HAVE SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT THE STUDENTS FOR THEIR OWN ENDS. KEY POINTS INCLUDED (A) UNIVERSITY, HIGHER INSTITUTES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL REOPEN DURING THIRD WEEK NO. (NOV. 21 FOR UNIVKHAR); (B) RECENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS ABUSED UNIVERSITY FREEDOM AND SOUGHT TO "...DESTROY DEMOCRACY IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY"; (C) "OPPORTUNISTS" FINANCED FROM ABROAD AND AT LEAST INDIRECTLY SERVING ISRAELI CAUSE BY SEEKING CREATE POLITICAL DISRUPTION AND ECONOMIC SHORTAGES; (D) SUDAN'S RELATIONS AS NON-ALIGNED ARAB-AFRICAN NATION MUST BE WITH ALL BLOCS, COUNTRIES AND "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS". STRESSED SUCH RELATIONS DID NOT CONSTITUTE DILUTION SUDANESE PRINCIPLES. HE THEN QUERIED RHETORICALLY WHETHER USSR HAD SOLD OUT ITS PRINCIPLES FOR DETENTE AND US FINANCIAL CREDITS. AND (E) REFERRED SCORNFULLY TO UNNAMED PRESIDENTIAL (QADDAFI) LETTER TO NIMEIRI (KHARTOUM 2287) AND TO PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED DEMONSTRATION IN SISTER ARAB COUNTRY (LIBYA) THAT SUDAN SHOULD NO PUBLICIZE MILITARY SUPPORT TO EGYPT IN ORDER MAKE ISRAELIS APPEAR LESS BESIEGED. NIMEIRI REVEALED SECOND (QADDAFI) LETTER ALSO RECEIVED ACCUSING SUDAN OF "STUPID DIPLOMACY" BY RETAINING CONTACT WITH USSR WHICH IS "LIKE AN ENEMY". NIMEIRI USED THE LIBYAN EXPAMLE TO SHOW THE BURDENS HE HAS TO SUFFER IN CARRYING OUT HIS DUTY.

3. UNIVERSITY PURGE? EMB UNDERSTANDS CURRENT UNIVKHAR VICE-CHANCELLOR (NIMEIRI IS CHANCELLOR) WILL RESIGN IN NEAR FUTURE IN PART, AT LEAST, BECAUSE OF POLITICIZATION OF FACULTY WHICH IS EXPECTED GET UNDERWAY INCLUDING FIRING OF FACULTY MEMBERS IMPLICATED IN RECENT DISTURBANCES. NEW POSITION OF DEAN OF STUDENTS MAY ALSO BE CREATED TO ENSURE STUDENTS REMIAN POLITICALLY QUIET. SENTENCING ONE HIGHLY-REGARDED PROFESSOR TO TWO YEARS IN COMMON JAIL FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN SEPT. DISTURBANCES HAS ALREADY PROMPTED SOME CRITICISM OF REGIME.

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4. COMMENT: NIMEIRI HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE TACIT PRESSURE TO REOPEN UNIV WHOSE CLOSURE MOST SUDANESE REGARDED AS A BLEMISH ON THE SUDAN AND A SYMBOL OF THE LOSS OF CONSIDERABLE ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS. GOS ALSO NEEDS GRADUATES FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. FUTURE GOS EFFORTS CONTROL POLITICAL LIFE OF UNIV. FACULTY AND STUDENTS IN INSTITUTION WITH LONG PRE-INDEPENDENCE POSITION OF PRESTIGE WILL BE CONTINUING CHALLENGE TO REGIME. BREWER

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